

## Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 AID-05 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 CPR-01

SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 /054 W

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R 091148Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5804

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, CASC

SUBJECT: ARREST AND RELEASE OF USAID OFFICIAL

REF: LAGOS 7865

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE VERBALE NO. 342 (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED)

DELIVERED TO MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JULY 7, 1976:

"EMBASSY REFERS TO ARREST AND CONFINEMENT BY NIGERIA POLICE OF MR. GORDON K. PROUTY, AN OFFICIAL OF THE EMBASSY AND BEAR OF A UNITED STATES OFFICIAL PASSPORT.

"MR. PROUTY WAS TAKEN FROM HIS RESIDENCE AT TEN O'CLOCK ON MORNING OF JULY 3 AND CONFINED AT VARIOUS POLICE ESTABLISHMENTS, PRINCIPALLY AT C.I.D. HEADQUARTERS, ALAGBON CLOSE, UNTIL FOUR O'CLOCK IN AFTERNOON OF JULY 5.

"EMBASSY LEARNED OF MR. PROUTY'S SEIZURE BY POLICE ONLY INDIRECTLY, AND NOT UNTIL FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AFTER THE FACT WAS IT POSSIBLE TO CONFIRM HIS SITUATION WITH ASSISTANCE OF OFFICERS OF MEA. MR. PROUTY'S STATMENT OF HIS EXPERIENCE IS ENCLOSED, AS IS SUMMONS TO APPEAR AT MAGISTRATE'S COURT NUMBER 3 AT YABA AT EIGHT O'CLOCK ON MORNING OF JULY 7 TO ANSWER CHARGES OF FAILING TO DISPLAY PROPER LICENSES ON AUTOMOBILE RECENTLY BROUGHT INTO NIGERIA FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.

"MINISTRY WILL APPRECIATE THAT EMBASSY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED FOR SECURITY AND WELL BEING OF ITS OFFICERS IN VIEW OF RECENT INSTANCES IN WHICH NIGERIA POLICE HAVE SEIZED, CONFINED AND HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR EXTENDED PERIODS AMERICAN CITIZENS, PRIVATE

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AND OFFICIAL, WITHOUT NOTICE, AND WITHOUT PERMITTING SEIZED

PERSONS TO CONTACT EMBASSY. IN CASE OF MR. PROUTY, THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY FACT THAT POLICE CONDUCTED DETAILED SEARCH OF HIS RESIDENCE, WHICH IS A PROPERTY LEASED BY EMBASSY, AND BY SEIZURE OF MR. PROUTY'S DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING HIS PASSPORT, HIS DEPARTMENT OF STATE IDENTITY CARD, HIS LAGOS DRIVING LICENSE AND THE REGISTRATION CARD OF HIS AUTOMOBILE, AND A PERSONALLY OWNED RADIO.

"THE SITTING OF THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT AT YABA COINCIDES WITH WORKING HOURS OF THIS EMBASSY AND IT IS NOT CONVENIENT TO RELEASE MR. PROUTY FROM HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES TO ANSWER SUMMONS IN PERSON. THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE IF MINISTRY WOULD EXPLAIN CIRCUMSTANCES TO COURT AND TAKE WHATEVER ACTION NECESSARY TO SECURE RETURN OF MR. PROUTY'S DOCUMENTS AND PROPERTY AND TO ENSURE THAT THIS REGRETTABLE INCIDENT IS CONCLUDED. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASSURANCES THAT IN EVENT PRESENCE OF AN AMERICAN OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF EMBASSY WERE TO BE REQUIRED FOR POLICE QUESTIONING OR OTHER PURPOSES, EMBASSY WOULD BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE."

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARRESTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D760265-0920  
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**Subject:** ARREST AND RELEASE OF USAID OFFICIAL  
**TAGS:** PDIP, CASC, NI, (PROUTY, GORDON K)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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